BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

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- **Housing starts in B.C. surged 38.0% in June**
- **The New Housing Price Index in B.C. dipped 0.8% in May**
- **Research & Development spending in B.C.'s higher education sector increased 3.9% in 2011/2012**

Housing

- **Housing starts in the province surged (+38.0%, *seasonally adjusted*) in June, the largest increase in the country.** The growth follows a 6.6% decline in May, and a 6.5% drop in April. Canadian starts were down 2.5%, with six provinces recording declines, most notably in Nova Scotia (-45.0%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The cost of new housing in both of B.C.'s largest metropolitan areas fell 0.8% in May.** In Victoria, homebuilders received an average of 0.7% less for their projects, while in Vancouver, new housing prices were 0.9% lower than in the same month of 2012. Although land prices were about the same (+0.0%) in the province as in May of 2012, declining building costs (-1.3%) pulled overall prices down. In Victoria, on the other hand, both the cost of houses (-0.9%) and land (-0.7%) were lower.

  Nationally, the cost of new housing rose 1.8% compared to May 2012. With the exception of Vancouver and Victoria, all 21 metropolitan areas surveyed showed increases in new housing prices. Winnipeg recorded the sharpest rise in prices (+5.8%), followed by Calgary (+5.3%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The total value of building permits issued by municipalities in British Columbia dropped 15.4% (*seasonally adjusted*) in May.** Planned spending on construction for both residential (-15.5%) and non-residential (-15.3%) structures fell at similar rates. While industrial (+102.9%) activity was on the rise, commercial (-11.8%) and institutional & government (-41.6%) intentions fell. Nationally, the total value of permits was up 4.5%, led by the non-residential (+5.0%) sector.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The value of building permits issued in the province between January and May fell 11.5% (*unadjusted*) compared to the same period of 2012.** The value of permits declined in six of the eight development regions, with the sharpest drop recorded in North Coast (-89.1%), following a record-breaking year of construction in 2012. In Vancouver Island/Coast, permit values were down 5.3%, as planned construction in the Comox Valley (-33.6%), Cowichan Valley (-13.3%), and Capital regions (-10.6%) slowed. Permit values were 5.7% lower in Mainland/Southwest, with Greater Vancouver (-5.0%), Fraser Valley (-21.2%), and Sunshine Coast (-47.8%) all recording declines, while Squamish-Lillooet saw permit values surge 112.1%. Building intentions were also down in Kootenay (-12.1%) and Cariboo (-40.2%). Thompson/Okanagan (+2.4%) and Nechako (+20.0%) were the only regions to record increased permit values.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

National Household Survey

- **Of the total workforce (employed and those who worked since January 1, 2010) in British Columbia in 2011, 10.6% had no certificate, diploma or degree, while 27.7% had a high school diploma as their highest level of education.** One-in-ten (11%) had an apprenticeship or trade certificate, 18.9% had a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma, 6.2% had a university

Did you know...

The proportion of households in B.C. who participate in some form of composting activities was 64% in 2011, up from 38% in 1994. *Source: Statistics Canada*

certificate or diploma below bachelor level, and 25.6% had a diploma or degree at a bachelor level or above.

The agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting industry had the greatest proportion of workers with no certificate, diploma or degree (28.9%), while 43.1% of those who worked in retail trade had a high school diploma as their highest level of education. Unsurprisingly, construction had the greatest proportion of workers with a trade certificate or apprenticeship (28.2%). Health care and social assistance had the greatest proportion of workers with a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma (30.2%), while 9.9% of those employed in real estate and rental & leasing had a university certificate or diploma below bachelor level. The educational services industry presented the highest proportion of workers with a university certificate, diploma, or degree at a bachelor level (62.8%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Research & Development

- **The estimated value of research and development (R&D) expenditures in the higher education sector in B.C. increased to $1.4 billion (+3.9%, *2007 constant prices*) in the 2011/2012 academic year.** R&D in social sciences and humanities, which accounted for 21% of the total, saw expenditure rise 8.0%. The remainder of expenditure took place in natural sciences and engineering, increasing 2.8%. Spending by business enterprises rose at the fastest rate (+17.4%), followed by higher education institutions (+6.7%), and the federal government (+2.6%). Funding from the foreign (-5.0%), private non-profit (-4.7%), and provincial government (-0.1%) sectors fell. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Crime

- **There were 1,332 police-reported hate crimes in Canada in 2011, a 5% reduction over the number of incidents recorded in 2010.** Crimes motivated by race or ethnicity accounted for 52% of offenses, followed by religion (25%), sexual orientation (18%), and other hate crimes (5%, *includes mental or physical disability, language, sex and other similar factors, such as occupation or political beliefs).* Compared to 2010, there was an increase in the number of hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation (+10%), and other hate crimes (+33%). Racially-motivated police-reporter hate crimes fell by 4%, and there was a 17% reduction in the number of hate crimes motivated by religion.

Mischief (50%) was the most common type of offense, while common assault also made up a substantial portion (15%) of hate crimes in the nation. Other non-violent offenses (i.e., crimes against property) and uttering threats each accounted for 9%. Assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (5%), criminal harassment (4%), and other violent offenses (4%), such as robbery or harassing phone calls, were also common offenses. Public incitement of hatred (1%), aggravated assault (1%), and other assault (1%) accounted for relatively smaller shares of the total.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database: otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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Email transmission information service from BC Stats

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2013	% change on one year ago
BC	4,650.0	0.9
Canada	35,141.5	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		% change on
(BC - at market prices)	2011	one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Mar 2013	3,360	1.2
Merchandise Exports - Mar 2013	3,001	12.9
Retail Sales - Mar 2013	5,156	0.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Apr 2013)	one year ago	% change
BC	-0.8	0.6
Vancouver	-0.8	0.8
Victoria	-1.3	0.4
Canada	0.4	1.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr 2013	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	9.5	
Labour Force - BC	2,471.0	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,312.1	0.4
Unemployed - BC	158.8	-8.3
		Mar 2013
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.4	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jul 10/2013	July 11/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.14	3.20
- 5 year	5.14	5.24
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jul 10/2013	July 11/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0511	1.0188
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9629	0.9805
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr 2013	one year ago
BC	877.05	3.9
Canada	885.20	3.0

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates, Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

BC Community Health Atlas

On June 24th, the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), which partnered with a number of organizations including BC Stats, announced the release of the BC Community Health Atlas. Read about it here:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-06-28/BC_Community_Health_Atlas.aspx

2011 Census Profiles

We have added files for Health geographies, School Districts, College Regions and Ministry of Children and Family Development Regions. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Provincial Electoral District Profiles 2011

Posted to our Open Data page is a 2011 Census Profile for the Provincial Electoral Districts. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Population Estimates by Age and Sex 2012

Updated population estimates by age and sex for B.C. sub-provincial regions are now available. . . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Released last week by BC Stats

- No Releases

To Release this week

- Consumer Price Index
- Employment Insurance

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